

Information Item

Discussion of Draft Amendment of Delta Plan Refinements for Performance Measures

Summary: Staff will update the Council on progress made since the April 2017 Council meeting, present a subset of the refined performance measures, and discuss next steps.

Background

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Delta Plan to include performance measures that enable the Council to track progress in meeting the objectives of the Delta Plan (Water Code sections 85211 and 85308 (b)). When adopted by the Council in May 2013, the Delta Plan included an initial suite of performance measures (159 total) organized by Delta Plan goal and strategy, and a commitment to revisit them and make further refinements based on best available science.

Consistent with the commitment in the 2013 Delta Plan, in February 2016 the Council adopted a refined suite of output and outcome performance measures, which were consolidated into Appendix E of the Delta Plan. With the benefit of formal review by local subject matter experts selected by the lead scientist, staff is continuing work to further refine these performance measures. At the March 23, 2017 Council meeting, staff presented a brief summary of the ongoing efforts to refine these performance measures since initial adoption. At the April 27, 2017 Council meeting, staff presented a subset of the refined performance measures for Council discussion and input. For those performance measures that were sent out for external expert review as recommended by the Delta Independent Science Board, staff summarized those reviews. In addition, staff provided a summary of comments received from the public and received input from the Council on those performance measures presented.

Today's Briefing

Staff will present the remaining performance measures that were not presented in April (Attachment 1). These include those measures relating to ecological flows, invasive species, and water quality. Staff will provide examples and describe how these refinements were made based on best available science, and in response to external expert review and public comments received.

Staff will also revisit the performance measures presented in April, including those relating to water supply reliability that have been further refined based on input from the Council.

Performance Measures Not Presented at the April Council Meeting

Flow performance measure 4.2: The proposed performance measure related to ecological flows are presented on pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1. We received extensive comments

on the flow performance measure from the external reviewers. The refinements reflect the suggestions from the external reviews that staff consider the following:

- Revising flow targets to more closely focus on biological outcomes (e.g. vegetation recruitment, fish habitat, floodplain food production)
- Accounting for multiple components of the Delta watershed
- Accounting for variability across water year type and season
- More clearly defining technical terms and concepts

Invasive species 4.10: The proposed performance measure related to invasive species is presented on pages 7 to 9 of Attachment 1. As with flows, we received extensive comments on the invasive species performance measure from the external reviewers. The refinements to this reflects the suggestions from the external reviews that staff consider the following:

- Current and potential non-native species in the Delta
- Technical input on data acquisition and analysis regarding abundance and distribution of non-native species
- More clearly defining technical terms and concepts

Changes to Previously Presented Performance Measures

The following performance measures were presented in April, 2017 for Council review, but additional revisions have been made based on Council and Delta Science Program input.

Water supply reliability performance measures 3.1-3.9: These are presented on pages 1 to 5 of Attachment 1. Further changes were made to add specificity to target dates and reporting periods. Performance measure 3.9 was modified to add targets for reduction in overall reliance on Delta exports in addition to the wet/dry year metrics which were presented previously.

Delta as a place performance measures 5.2-5.9: These are presented on pages 10 to 14 of Attachment 1. Further changes were made to add specificity regarding target dates and reporting periods. The target for performance measure 5.2 was increased to include the opportunities related to the Delta wetland and rice carbon protocol, and the California Air Resources Board's goals related to greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030. Performance measures 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8 and 5.9 were refined to better represent their targeted Delta Plan strategies, and to improve their measurability given existing data sources. Two performance measures, 5.4 and 5.7, were recommended for removal; 5.4 is already required by CEQA, and 5.7 is recommended for removal due a lack of a definable

outcome metric and target. Both strategies are represented under similar administrative performance measures.

Water quality performance measures 6.1-6.11: These are presented on pages 15 to 21 of Attachment 1. Further changes were made to add specificity regarding target dates and reporting periods. Performance measures 6.7-6.10 were updated to better accommodate emerging constituents of concern, and to incorporate current scientific research programs and rulemaking processes addressing information gaps and developing regulations, respectively.

Risk reduction performance measures 7.1-7.7: These are presented on pages 22 to 24 of Attachment 1. Changes were made to add specificity to target dates and reporting periods. Performance measure 7.2 was modified to remove number of lives lost as a metric as it was confusing to present actual lives lost and estimated annual fatalities side by side.

Next Steps

Anticipated next steps include:

1. Staff will continue to refine the remaining performance measures, including incorporating today's input from the Council and present the draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) project description, which will include the entire suite of performance measures, to the Council in June 2017.
2. At the June 2017 meeting, staff will request that the Council approve the project description for the proposed amendment in order for staff to proceed with environmental review. If this approval occurs, as part of the approval of the project description the Council will direct staff to analyze the draft revised performance measures in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), discussed in the next step, as the proposed project under CEQA.
3. The Performance Measures Amendment will be included in the draft EIR that will be prepared for all of the proposed Delta Plan amendments (i.e., Delta Levees Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy; Delta Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both; and Performance Measures).
4. In the summer/fall, the draft EIR for the amendment will be released for public review and comment, including a hearing to take comments on the Draft EIR, leading to preparation of a final EIR.
5. Council certifies the EIR, and adopts the Performance Measures Amendment to the Delta Plan.

Throughout the process, staff will continue to provide regular updates to the Council and stakeholders.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Redline Version of Proposed Performance Measures Compared against
February 2016 Adopted Version

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